

I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in permitting me to speak on this. I rise in support of the open rule. I join my colleagues in praising the leadership of Mr. Kolbe, with whom I have had an opportunity to learn a great deal from his tutelage as Chair and his commitment to foreign affairs, and to watch Mrs. Lowey and Mr. Kolbe make the most out of the difficult budget hand they have been dealt.

This is, in fact, a great investment of American tax dollars. It is not just the right thing to do morally, but it does make markets for U.S. goods, it helps developing partners around the world in commerce, and it is much cheaper than the military option. Think of what could have been accomplished with the trillion dollars we will have spent in Iraq.

It is time for us, however, I think, for us to consider some adjustments in philosophy and direction. I know there is going to be some proposals later in amendments that would deal with issues regarding Egypt, where we have given some \$25 billion since 1979, and, sadly, the repressive tactics against journalists, against people who would exercise their Democratic rights is a sad commentary. And I do not think that we need to be held hostage for putting vast amounts of military assistance into Egypt at a time when they are not responding in ways that are consistent with what we are trying to do. I think sending some modest signals that we are not going to be held hostage is important.

Indeed, one-half of the top 25 recipients of United States' arms in the developing world are undemocratic, according to the United States State Department's own record. I think that is an unfortunate commentary. And I will be offering an amendment later in this debate, with my good friend, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. Leach), who chairs our Subcommittee on International Affairs on Asia, to divert \$250 million from the military aid to put it in assistance that would make a difference for foreign countries around the world to deal with the fact that there are a billion people around the world who live on a dollar a day or less; that every 15 seconds, a child dies from waterborne disease. Indeed, one-half of the people who are sick today anywhere around the world are sick needlessly from waterborne disease.

This Chamber, last year, supported bipartisan legislation, the Water for the Poor Act, named after our colleague, Senator Paul Simon, that has the potential of being transformational for these people. But what we need to do is to invest money to make that the case. So I am going to strongly urge that my colleague look at this proposal, much to be commended, but to look at one specific adjustment, putting money away from arms to undemocratic areas where, frankly, it is not the highest priority, and, instead, invest 250 million additional dollars for this critical

economic and development aid.

Remember, last year, in the total budget for the entire world dealing with this problem of waterborne disease, the entire budget was only \$200 million, after we had worked and worked and worked. This budget currently only provides \$50 million. We can do more, and I strongly urge consideration of the Leach-Blumenauer amendment.